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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides guidance to parents regarding behavior of infants and toddlers, including behavior development and problems. It offers common sense advice and practical examples. The chapters are: (1) "Introduction: What Is Misbehavior of Babies?", discussing "crying" as an appropriate behavior for meeting physical and emotional needs, and asserting that learning some developmental tasks requires a great deal of adult assistance; (2) "Discipline vs. Punishment" asserting that discipline means "to teach" and that punishment teaches fear and defiance, often destroying self esteem; (3) "Positive Discipline Techniques with Infants and Toddlers" focusing on prevention as the optimal discipline technique--using calm tones and caresses, rewarding desired behaviors contingently, avoiding overpraise, labeling desirable behaviors, modeling behaviors, using humor, varying tempos of activities, refocusing and redirecting inappropriate actions, respecting individual temperaments, and building self-esteem. (BGC)

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